

## Communication



### Community Members as Responders

San Francisco's Chinatown is the most densely populated neighborhood west of New York City. More than 80% of residents speak a language other than English at home. See how disaster planners train and empower community members as responders during the first 72 hours.

### CDC Entertainment Education Program Acknowledges Outstanding TV Health Storylines at the 12th Annual Sentinel for Health Awards

Consumer research over the years has shown that more than half of regular primetime drama/comedy viewers learned something about a health issue or disease from a TV show. CDC's entertainment education program and cooperative agreement with the University of Southern California's Hollywood, Health and Society (HH&S) program creates the opportunity for CDC subject matter experts to work with writers and producers of prime time television shows to help make sure there are accurate health storylines. CDC's work and partnership began with HH&S ten years ago and as a result HH&S has worked with more than 150 TV series—some of which have as many as 20 million viewers — on 6 broadcast and 30 cable networks.

### Medical Countermeasures

The October 2011 issue of Domestic Preparedness contains several article of interest to hospital and public health responders.

- The Public Health Ethics Of Contagion
- HICS National Summit
- MCM Dispensing, The Public Health Point Of View
- Lessons Learned From Hurricanes Irene And Lee



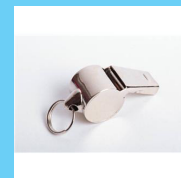
### CDC Science Clips

This series features top scientific articles, selected on the basis of potential for population impact and practical implementation. Preparedness and response highlights in this issue include:

- Communications, terrorism, and homeland security: new approaches, projects, and initiatives
- Federal interagency communication strategies for addressing radiation emergencies and other public health crises

### Don't Stress; It's Only A Test

As part of their ongoing efforts to keep our country and communities safe during emergencies, the Federal Communications Commission and Federal Emergency Management Agency will conduct the first nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS). The EAS test plays a key role in ensuring the nation is prepared for all hazards, and that the U.S. public can receive critical and vital information, should it ever be needed. The first nationwide test will be conducted Wednesday, November 9 at 2 p.m. ET. This test may last up to three and a half minutes, and will be transmitted via television and radio stations within the U.S., including Alaska, Hawaii, the territories of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and American Samoa. Similar to local emergency alert system tests, an audio message will interrupt television and radio programming indicating: "This is a test." When the test is over, regular programming will resume. For more information about the nationwide Emergency Alert System test click [HERE](#).



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Read the Next *Guardian* Issue!  
November 18, 2011

# Research



## **Journal Addresses Pediatric Needs during Disasters**

The Pediatric Emergency Mass Critical Care (PEMCC) Task Force, funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and convened by the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education, has developed recommendations to address pediatric needs during disasters in the topic areas of treatment and triage; supplies and equipment; regionalized systems for pediatric and neonatal critical care; the role of community preparedness; family-centered care; education and training; ethical considerations; legal considerations; and international considerations. Clinicians and emergency planners may find the recommendations particularly useful as they reference the role communities play in preparedness with a focus on regions and states. The recommendations will be published as a supplement to the journal *Pediatric Critical Care Medicine* and online in the journal *Critical Care Medicine*. Beginning November 4, the supplement will be available at [www.pccmjournals.org](http://www.pccmjournals.org).

## **Charting the Future of Biosecurity: Ten Years after the Anthrax Attacks**

Charting the Future of Biosecurity: Ten Years after the Anthrax Attacks was held in Washington, DC, on October 4, 2011. This meeting was jointly hosted by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and the Center for Biosecurity of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Leaders from the federal government, the policy community, think tanks, academia, and media outlets were invited to participate in the discussion. The meeting provided a forum for these leaders to reflect on progress made since 2001 and to consider priorities for the biosecurity policy agenda in the years ahead. The resources from the meeting are available online.

## **How Accessible Was Information about H1N1 Flu? Literacy Assessments of CDC Guidance Documents for Different Audiences**

Researchers in PLoS One study how well the CDC H1N1 influenza guidance documents were understood by different audiences. They studied 101 guidance documents which were then split into categories of technical audience, laypersons, media, primary and secondary distributive. They analyzed each document with a Flesch-Kincaid grade-level indicator as well as Suitability Assessment of Materials overall readability assessment. The research showed the average overall readability of the documents was at a ninth grade level. The highest grade level was for the technical documents with the lowest for the media. In regards to layout to improve readability, the researchers found many of the documents geared toward laypeople need to incorporate less paragraphs and more bulleted lists. The full study is available online

## **Driving in the Dark Ten Propositions About Prediction and National Security**

The Center for New American Security released a report that proposes steps to improve the nation's prediction of security risk. The Center proposes 5 descriptive and 5 prescriptive proposition regarding predicting security risks. They suggest the US defense community should be prepared to be unprepared. They also suggest how, policymakers can better design processes, programs and equipment to account for the likelihood of predictive failure. The full report is available online.



## **Notice of CDC's Discontinuation of Investigational Pentavalent (ABCDE) Botulinum Toxoid Vaccine for Workers at Risk for Occupational Exposure to Botulinum Toxins**

In Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, CDC reports that it will no longer provide

vaccine for botulism types A-D to workers who are at risk of being exposed as an occupational hazard. They cite the decrease in immune response to some of the subtypes as well as increase adverse reaction to the vaccine that is over 30 years old. There is no replacement for this vaccine; however, one is currently being developed by the Department of Defense Chemical Biological Medical Systems Joint Project Management Office. The full article is available [online](#).

## Surveillance & Epidemiology

### **CDC Confirms 5th Case of new Swine-Origin H3N2 Flu**

[CDC has confirmed](#) the fifth case of human infection with a swine-origin influenza A (H3N2) virus that carries the M gene from the 2009 H1N1 virus. This virus was first detected in a child in Indiana in July. Subsequently three additional cases of human infection with swine-origin influenza A (H3N2) viruses carrying the same genetic change were detected in Pennsylvania. Though rare, human infections with swine-origin influenza viruses can occur, usually after close contact with infected swine. The patient in Maine was reported to have attended an agricultural fair where animals, including pigs, were present. The child was not hospitalized. He received antiviral treatment and is recovering from his illness.

### **Rapidly Progressive, Fatal, Inhalation Anthrax-Like Infection in a Human (2011-07-11)**

[This case report](#) examines the impact, pathology, and institutional response necessary for the dissemination of an anthrax-like substance.

## Regional News

### **November 6-12 is Winter Severe Weather Awareness Week**

On average, a major winter storm hits some part of Michigan at least once per month between October and April. In 2008, the last year that statistics were available, 45 people died in Michigan as a direct result of severe winter weather according to the Michigan Department of Community Health. This is in addition to victims of traffic crashes due to slippery roads and those who suffered heart attacks while shoveling snow. Being prepared for winter hazards requires that you provide for ways to keep warm if the heat goes off or you are stranded in a snowstorm. You also need to make sure your house is properly prepared by taking measures to insure that pipes will not freeze and that snow and ice do not pose a hazard to the roof. [More...](#)



### **New Michigan Cyber-Command Center and Cyber-Defense Squads**

Michigan will develop a cyber-command center and form a number of "cyber-defense response teams," officials said, as part of a plan to heighten the state's profile within the computer security industry. The Michigan Cyber-Command Center will be directed by the Michigan State Police from the state's Emergency Operations Center. The cyber-command center will be staffed by "a select group of skilled public and private professionals who are highly trained in emergency response to cyber-events," according to official announcements outlining the proposal. If and when activated after a security threat, the command center will be tasked with restoring computer systems and minimizing damage. A full version of the Michigan Cyber Initiative announcement, as well as a new cyber-toolkit, can be found at [online](#).

### **Region 3 Hosts Long Term Care Tabletop and Evacuation Exercises.**

Region 3 has had remarkable success in the inclusion of Long Term Care (LTC) and other Interagency Partners into their program over the last two years. This success, mostly due to the hard work of the Region's Partnership Development Coordinator, who has now brought 54 of the 66 LTC agencies in 14 counties as active participants into the Region's preparedness efforts.

As part of this inclusion, Region 3 has sponsored their second LTC Tabletop Exercise followed by an evacuation drill. The most recent exercises involved Bortz Long Term Care of West Branch. The event started on October 17th with a full tabletop exercise coordinated through a contract with Comprehensive Emergency Management Associates (CEMA). This initial portion of the exercise included LTC key staff as well as County Emergency Management, the Red Cross, West Branch Regional Medical Center, local fire, EMS and police, and the Region 3 Medical Coordination Center.

On October 19th, participants took part in a facility evacuation drill. Using high school students as mock patients, nearly 20 "patients" were evacuated from the facility due to a supposed fire. The exercise was complicated when an actual fire alarm was activated at another care facility in West Branch, thus pulling away both the police and fire players for part of the exercise. Region 3 continues to challenge our LTC and other partners. On Wednesday,

October 26th, a MIHAN/EMResource drill has been scheduled for all LTC agencies in the Region to test their abilities to respond to an alert and update their bed status within a specified time frame. The Region will continue to work with all of our partners so as to encourage them to keep preparedness as a key element in their daily operations.

## **National News**

### **National Radiation Protection Professionals Week November 6-12, 2011**

Radiation protection professionals provide leadership in protecting the public from the hazards of radiation. These dedicated individuals work diligently to ensure that radiation and radioactive materials are used safely and



beneficially in thousands of different ways. According to Alice Rogers, Chairperson, of the Board of Directors of the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD), "Radiation protection professionals are a vital safety net; they help to make sure that medical uses of radiation are safe, that industrial uses and products are safe, and that our homes and our country are safe. Their selfless professionalism ensures that people are able to safely enjoy the tremendous benefits of the uses of radiation in our society." The weeklong

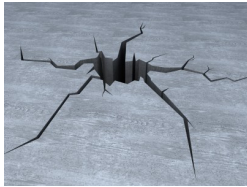
event to honor radiation protection professionals is set in November to celebrate the discovery of X-rays by Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen on November 8, 1895. Both the CRCPD Board of Directors and the Health Physics Society Board of Directors have passed resolutions to proclaim the National Radiation Protection Professionals Week. State radiation control programs and other radiation protection groups are encouraged to celebrate this event in their area and to educate the public about radiation safety issues.

### **Possible Study of Anthrax Vaccine's Effectiveness in Children Stirs Debate**

Federal advisors on the National Biodefense Science Board are scheduled to meet later this week to vote on the issue of testing the anthrax vaccine on children. Some have protested against testing healthy children as unethical;



while others state that without testing, in the event of an attack it would be difficult to provide vaccine safety messaging to the public without any data on children.



### **Millions of Californians Set Preparedness Example in Earthquake Drill**

Recently, 9.4 million people participated in the [Great California ShakeOut](#) exercise. Conducted for the fourth year in a row, the exercise inspired drills in other states, regions and countries; including Mexico, China and Japan.

### **ASTHO Profile of State Public Health, Volume Two**

The ASTHO 2010 Profile of [State Public Health Survey](#) was completed by 50 states, DC, and 2 territories generating a 100% response rate among states and DC, and a 90% response rate among all potential respondents. ASTHO greatly appreciates the time and effort of our members committed to completing the survey. The results are now available and the publications were distributed at the ASTHO Annual Meeting. Access the survey.

## **Tools & Resources**

### **CitizenReady Guide**

How you can [prepare for disasters](#) and public health emergencies. American Medical Association.

### **Respiratory Guideline for Small Entities**

From the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA), the Small Entity Compliance Guide for the Respiratory Protection Standard is available [online](#).

## **Training & Events**

### **The IOM Report on Pre-positioning of Antibiotics for Anthrax: Next Steps for Local Public Health**

**Webinar: November 7, 2011, 11:00 AM–Noon, EST**

Click [HERE](#) to register.

NACCHO will be hosting a webinar on the IOM Report on Prepositioning of Antibiotics for Anthrax; Next Steps for Local Public Health. The webinar will discuss: different types of prepositioning strategies, how to determine which strategies would be appropriate for a particular community, and consider next steps for local public health officials based on recommendations of the IOM Committee on Prepositioned Medical Countermeasures for the Public.

### **Community Preparedness Webinar: Introduction to the National Disaster Recovery Framework**

**Tuesday, November 8th, 1:50 P.M EDT**

Register [HERE](#) 15 minutes before the start of the Webinar

Join us to learn how the recently released National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF) provides a more inclusive, collaborative, and comprehensive approach to addressing disaster recovery issues and challenges. The NDRF defines how we will work together as a nation to best meet the disaster recovery needs of



individuals, families, communities, and states. The NDRF is based on the principle that all emergency management partners, including the private sector, non-profit organizations, faith-based organizations, individual citizens, as well as local, state, tribal and federal government agencies have a role to play in the recovery process. And in catastrophic scenarios, leveraging resources the resources of the Whole Community to meet the needs of communities affected by disaster is essential.

### **Inclusive Just-in-Time Training (I-JITT) Model - Webinar Tuesday, November 15th, 2:00-3:00 pm Eastern**

Join the Multnomah County Health Department Advanced Practice Center (MCHD APC) to [learn more](#) about upstream planning considerations associated with rapid emergency response training programs. The Inclusive Just-in-Time Training (I-JITT) model and toolkits will be presented, evaluative data from the field will be discussed, and recommendations for key JITT planning strategies prior to and during an emergency response will be shared. Whether you're familiar with the I-JITT model and toolkits, or not, this engagement will offer learning's on how to successfully implement rapid training during a public health incident.

### **Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication Webinars**

The CERC training program draws from lessons learned during public health emergencies, and incorporates best practices from the fields of risk and crisis communication. CERC offers the following upcoming and archived Webinars:

- NEW: Leveraging Social Media for Disaster Preparedness
- NEW: Participatory Culture, Technology

### **EHTER Prepares Environmental Health Workers for Emergency Response**

CDC's Environmental Health Training in Emergency Response (EHTER) [Awareness Level course](#) is now available through a partnership with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) in Anniston, Alabama. This awareness-level training, sponsored by DHS/FEMA and CDC/National Center for Environmental Health, is a 32-hour (4-day) course that provides an overview of environmental health topics, issues, and challenges faced during emergency response. The purpose of the course is to increase the level of emergency preparedness of environmental health practitioners and other emergency response personnel by providing them with the necessary knowledge, skills, and resources to address the environmental health impacts of emergencies and disasters. Transportation, lodging, and meals are provided by DHS/FEMA to students from state, local and tribal jurisdictions at no cost to their agency. For more details about this course and other EHTER courses being offered.



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